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West Shore Voice

v1

News 6 pages this issue

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Election Watch 2018

West Shore
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Trudeau & Horgan announce LNG Canada project

West Shore Voice News

Screenshots



<< **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and BC Premier John Horgan** shared the limelight at the LNG Canada announcement in Vancouver, October 2. The \$40 billion project is the largest private investment in Canadian history. **To his local base**, Horgan said in a TV interview that the additional revenues to the Province would help pay for "schools in Sooke" and child care. **WSV**

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/40-billion-lng-project-approved-for-bcs-north-coast/>

● **The single largest private investment** in Canadian history, a \$40-billion liquefied natural-gas (LNG) export terminal on BC's North Coast, was announced Tuesday October 2 in Vancouver. The formal announcement saw Prime Minister Justin Trudeau together with BC Premier John Horgan announce the giant energy project's go-ahead, along with LNG Canada and First Nations leaders.

LNG Canada was given final approval late Monday evening (9:18 pm PDT) October 1, to move to construction by a consortium of oil-and-gas companies headed by Royal Dutch Shell.

Trudeau said 10,000 Canadian workers would benefit by this project (those would be jobs during construction). He also announced \$275 million in federal support, and said that once built, the project will have the lowest carbon intensity of any large-scale LNG facility in the world. He called the project "a vote of confidence in a country that recognizes the need to develop our energy in a way that takes the environment into account, and that works in meaningful partnership with Indigenous people".

Horgan seemed truly pleased about the deal that required a wide range of approvals including an export licence from National Energy Board, joint ventures for gas supply and marketing arrangements, environment approvals from the Canadian environmental assessment agency and the oil and gas commission, the environmental assessment office, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Agreements are in place with 25 First Nations. Power supply agreements with BC Hydro are in place. Engineering designs are done and construction contracts are in place as well as agreements for Trans Canada's coastal gas link pipeline.

Trudeau said the days are gone in which the economy and environment are considered to be opposing forces. "In the 21st century we don't have to choose between a healthy environment and strong economy. They must go together. And today is proof of that," said Trudeau. It was a good political healing exercise with BC in the wake of BC-federal tensions over BC's stance for assured environmental protections (particularly oceans) regarding the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

Trudeau claimed that "Canada has a strong national plan to fight climate change" and commended BC Premier John Horgan as a "strong forward-thinking leader" with regard to climate change. "Growing economy in smart sustainable ways," is part of moving forward, said Trudeau. But he also insisted that the fight against climate change must be global, with other countries doing their part.

Beaming, Horgan declared this LNG project a "massive investment", the largest in Canadian history. Horgan said the LNG project shows commitment from the people of BC to the resource sector and doing "what we can to make life better for British Columbians and make life better for Canadians and people around the world". He was pleased to affirm that "BC and Canada are open for business... people, ingenuity and resources of BC are there to make life better for everyone".

BC's NDP premier acknowledged the Haisla people for "spreading the story for opportunity across the north".

The BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources outlined the project in a statement October 2: "This project will see construction of a natural gas pipeline from northeast BC to Kitimat where a new terminal will process and ship LNG to Asian markets, generating \$24 billion of direct investment in BC. This record investment was enabled by the BC government's new LNG Framework, released in March 2018. In line with the government's approach to LNG, projects should": * **Guarantee a fair return** for BC's natural resources. Expected to generate about \$23 billion in public revenue over 40 years – new funds available to invest in health care, schools, child care and other key public services. * **Guarantee jobs** and training opportunities for British Columbians: Create up to 10,000 jobs during construction and up to 950 permanent jobs once operational. * **Respect and make partners of First Nations**: Project partners have reached agreements with elected First Nations at the project site and along the pipeline route. * **Protect BC's air, land and water**, including living up to the Province's climate commitments: LNG's Canada project will be accommodated within the government's legislated emissions reduction targets.

BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver was dismayed over the LNG Canada project. He said: "The NDP minority government's tax giveaway has resulted in the country's single biggest source of emissions." "Adding such a massive new source of GHGs means that the rest of our economy will have to make even more sacrifices to meet our climate targets," said Weaver.

"Our Caucus has been clear that we do not support the government's LNG regime," said Weaver in a statement. "The government does not have our votes to implement this regime and will have to work with the BC Liberal MLAs if they want this project to go forward." He continued: "We have been working closely in good faith with the government to develop a Clean Growth Strategy to aggressively reduce emissions and electrify our economy," said Weaver. "The BC NDP campaigned to implement a plan to meet our targets and reaffirmed that promise in our Confidence and Supply Agreement. We will hold them to account on this. We will have more to say once that plan becomes public later this year." **WSV**

Friday, October 5, 2018

Thanksgiving Weekend Issue

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Construction underway at Colwood Corners

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News



Watching concrete being poured before inseting a plaque of the start-of-construction commemorative event. From left: Mike Reilly, president, WestShore Chamber of Commerce; Beecher Bay Chief Russ Chipps; and Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton.

● **The Colwood Corners hole in the ground** with rusting rebar is soon to be all but a memory in the Colwood community. Construction recently began at the future residential-commercial site at the corner of Sooke Road and Colwood Crescent (next door to the mall with London Drugs and Coast Capital Savings).

For Colwood Mayor Carol Hamilton it was a big day October 4. "The community has long beared with the great hole that has presided here for a number of years and I can't say how thankful we are that this project is getting kicked off and underway, so thank you so much," said Hamilton with much gratitude. The two-term mayor (2011-2014, 2014-2018) who shepherded Colwood through the recovery phase of the Great Recession is running again to be mayor for 2018-2022.

The previous owners of the property ended up abandoning the Colwood Corners property due to financial difficulties during the recession. The property was purchased by Onni Group in late 2014. The development permit for the new development was approved by Colwood Council in June 2017.

Hamilton acknowledged the Colwood council members who were present: Rob Martin (also running for mayor), Gordie Logan, Cynthia Day, and Jason Nault. Some Colwood staff were on hand and members of the Colwood fire department as well as WestShore Chamber of Commerce president and executive director, and "interested people in the community, because this is important".

Onni Group chief of staff Duncan Wlodarczak told the crowd that the company realizes the partly developed property has been "a thorn in the side of the Colwood community". He was pleased to announce that construction has started, as trucks and construction workers carried on behind the small celebratory crowd. "We're looking forward to getting this project up and running. Especially with providing housing for Vancouver Island and the City of Colwood," he said.

Concrete was then poured into the form and the plaque ceremoniously placed by Mayor Hamilton into the wet concrete.

Build-out of the first six buildings is estimated for 2020. Construction begins with the first mixed-use building, followed by two more mixed-use residential buildings, said Rodney Rao of the Vancouver-based global Onni Group. There will be 471 market rental units, in a mix of floorplans (including 2- & 3-bedroom). The commercial space will be over 15,000 sq m for new shops, services and eateries.

Pedestrian-friendly walkways will frame a central plaza and children's play area to create a "lively and welcoming gathering place" complete with trees, landscaping, outdoor seating, lighting and public art.

"Onni Group is always looking for opportunities for building quality housing and projects in communities that have strong markets," said Steve Jantzen, Commercial Property Manager, Onni Group.

Colwood's new Official Community Plan (OCP) encourages development in town centres at Colwood Corners, along the Sooke Road transit corridor, and in a seaside village at Royal Bay. **WSV**

thanksgiving
weekend

More election coverage in the October 12
weekend issue. **Ad bookings due by Oct 10.**
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The public needs better opportunities to hear from school trustee candidates Election Watch 2018

● **Tag-along, little sister?** Other than the full opportunity for answering audience questions at the All Candidates Meeting for Juan de Fuca Regional Director race held in Otter Point last weekend, school trustees have had few and minimalistic opportunities to address voters directly. At the Colwood All Candidates event this past week they were each given less than a minute, briefly from the audience. At the Metchosin All Candidates they were given an organized firm-one-minute-each. Even the usual format of being hosted by the school district's own parent PAC (aka SPEAC) has become muted. All-trustee debates of the past has this year apparently become an online 'video brochure' of candidate statements.



Mary P Brooke
Editor & Publisher

Public education is a fundamental plank to help maintain a democratic society and a civic-minded population. School trustees rub shoulders with municipal leaders (mayors and councils) in many of their governance dealings, and of course respond directly to the Ministry of Education. What's not important in that? They spend your tax dollars on things like buildings, salaries and school bus transportation. Indirectly through operational decision-making, they influence how curriculum is delivered in the schools and have a strong hand in distribution of resources among and within teaching venues.

Getting to know your school trustee candidates is important for families, the business sector, and the community at large. Decisions by trustees at their board table has a huge impact on family life, future student employability, and societal interface – this affects all of us.

In the west shore, the school district on your ballot in Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Metchosin, Highlands (parts of), View Royal (parts of), and Juan de Fuca is Sooke School District 62 (SD62). If you live in Sooke or Juan de Fuca your candidates are in the Milne's Landing Zone (3 seats), otherwise your candidates are in the Belmont Zone (4 seats).

SD62 is one of the largest employers on south Vancouver Island. Over 85% of their budget is spent on salaries and benefits, all of it taxpayer dollars. For that reason alone, voters may want to know more about their trustee candidates.

And it's frequently heard in wanna-be political circles, 'well if you can't run for council, then run for school board', as if it's the junior committee. Voters should expect the same level of forethought, commitment and expertise from their trustee candidates as they do from their council and mayoral candidates.

Perhaps in the next election cycle (2022) there will be a higher regard for the role of trustee, as reflected in a more high-profile manner to hear the candidates present their platforms. Meet-and-greets are great, but it's sporadic and doesn't give you the full spectrum of how a new board might be composed and what direction it might take. Perhaps it falls to some other organization in the community to take this on as municipalities are busy with their own elections, chambers of commerce focus on the municipalities, and the parent organization might be too close for comfort. ■

BC & REGIONAL NEWS HOUSING FOCUS | West Shore Voice News www.westshorevoicenews.com

BC buys land to house the homeless

● **The BC government has purchased land** in Nanaimo on which some modular housing will be set up, eventually taking more than 170 homeless people off the streets and giving them shelter.

On Friday October 5, Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, released a statement in response to the high-profile homelessness situation in Nanaimo, saying the province recognizes "the urgent need to provide housing for people who are camping in the City of Nanaimo's downtown core" and that the Province has purchased property at 250 Terminal Avenue "so we can rapidly deliver 80 units of temporary workforce modular housing". The city is also providing land at 2020 Labieux Road, so another 90 units of temporary housing can be opened.

"We want to facilitate an end to the tent city by getting people into safe and stable homes as soon as possible," said Robinson in her statement. "The workforce modular housing has been purchased and is on its way to Nanaimo, and both projects will be open by late November 2018. These buildings will provide safe, secure temporary housing while more permanent housing can be built in the city."

"We are calling on the city to commit to the planned phased approach to the closure of the camp. This phased approach would involve increased security and monitoring of the camp while campers remain at their current location until the housing is open. Any other approach would force the campers to scatter throughout the city while they wait for housing, which would not be in the best interests of either the campers or the community of Nanaimo as a whole."

The site at 250 Terminal Avenue has cost about \$2 million. The site on Labieux Road is owned by the City of Nanaimo. The total capital cost to supply and install the modular housing at both sites is approximately \$1.6 million.

This entire scenario indicates a sea-change in how government responds to the provision of basic needs. Pre-NDP/Horgan, government essentially turned a blind eye to homelessness (letting it perpetuate) or provided social safety-net programs with minimal payments (serving to perpetuate people's plight, as the support is rarely enough to break the chain of displacement or poverty).

It will take some careful management by the Province to ensure that people

September west shore real estate at a glance

Langford | Colwood
Sooke

In September 2018, the overall sale price of single family homes in Greater Victoria was \$920,825 (233 homes sold). In Langford the average sale came back up to the mid-\$700,000's at \$750,502 (30 homes). In Colwood the average sale was \$729,875 (16 homes). In Sooke the average sale was back up over half a million, at \$553,205 (21 homes). Overall sales volume was 16.7% lower than September last year, with single family home sales down 9.2% from Sept 2017, and condo sales down 30.4%. **WSV**

More: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/september-2018west-shore-real-estate-at-a-glance/>



BC Minister of
Municipal Affairs and
Housing, Selina Robinson

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BOB PHILLIPS
for SD62 Trustee
Milne's Landing Zone
VOTE on October 20
Authorized by Robert Phillips, financial agent | 250-642-3297

'brought in from the cold' are assisted in various ways so they can reintegrate into a job and the broader community. If that is a successful effort in the next year or two, it will demonstrate a socioeconomic advancement in BC and set an example for other Canadian urban centres. The NDP government will need to demonstrate that the process is economically sustainable, as it will require a reliably robust economy (and cooperation from municipalities) to become a fixture of the BC social safety net going forward.

And from the municipalities, it's not so much about cooperation (generally speaking, everyone wants to see improvements for housing-challenged people). But rather it's about downloading a tax burden (giving up land, or providing additional on-the-ground services) onto municipalities. As Langford Mayor Stew Young explains: "The province should always provide land and buildings as part of the Ministry budgets that already tax for this – the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and for the criminal element the Attorney General already provides housing. Downloading these housing costs onto municipalities that don't tax for it is a tax burden for municipalities that should not have to house people from all over Canada," Young said. **WSV**



Langford Mayor
Stew Young

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Colwood candidates draw a full house

Election Watch 2018 by Mary P Brooke, Editor, West Shore Voice News

● **Almost 300 people** came out to hear candidates for Colwood council make their pitch to the electorate. It was standing room only in the main hall at Church of the Advent that evening, October 2. A mix-and-mingle ahead of formal speeches was an opportunity to chat and pick up campaign materials.

Hosted by the Bruce Simpson of the WestShore Chamber of Commerce, the question-and-answer portion of the evening went on for over two hours (in two sessions). **Rob Martin** led the first set with half the candidates, and **Carol Hamilton** led the other after a short intermission. Despite being drawn at random, some questions were repetitive, but most people stayed for the whole thing.

Colwood is in transition from being a semi-rural suburban community to something more. What exactly is Colwood's future, evolving as a partially painted canvas of a community that wants to grow but hasn't put all the pieces together yet. That was clearly seen in one of the main questions being about the new Official Community Plan (OCP), the ink of which is barely dry.

How the OCP shapes the community in the next few or several years is yet to be seen. Mayor Carol Hamilton (incumbent) stands by the OCP as a document that reflects an enormous amount of community input. Mayoral contender Rob Martin (a two-term councillor, and chair of the Greater Victoria Public Library board) feels strongly that the development community was not heard or appropriately responded to during the OCP development process.

Martin said that an ineffective or difficult relationship with the west shore development community is obviously not a smooth way forward for the city that seems to want development for its obvious tax-revenue benefits. More tax revenues allow for more infrastructure and services to residents and community.

Some members of the west shore development community as well as some Langford council incumbents and two new Langford council candidates were there for the evening. Due to the number of candidates, the civic discourse was conducted in two sessions.

Mayoralty candidate Rob Martin shared the stage for the first session with council candidates Doug Kobayashi, Cynthia Day*, Eve Millington, Aaron Weisgerber, Jason Nault*, and Scott McDonald. Session two after a brief intermission presented mayoralty incumbent Carol Hamilton with Misty Olsen, Michael Baxter, Dean Jantzen, Gordie Logan*, and Stewart Parkinson. [* = incumbent]

Rob Martin said the biggest issue for Colwood for the next four years is employment and increasing the commercial tax base. If more people can work in Colwood there will be fewer people on the roads in commuter traffic, and it would mean more economic activity would be happening in the city where presently 93% of the tax base is from residential property taxes, he outlined.

Carol Hamilton said the success of her seven years (two terms) as mayor has been her team leadership. She seeks another four years for the time to provide leadership for the implementation of what she has developed. If re-elected council could hit the ground running after October 20, she told the crowd.

For council, 11 candidates are running for six seats [* = incumbent]. **Michael Baxter:** Wants to see Colwood "protected, thoughtfully growing, and improving as it goes". With 40 years experience in local government: "Local government is healthy and thriving in Colwood". **Cynthia Day*:** Wants to improve transit and accessibility for people with disabilities, and see life be more affordable for families (including child care). Has served on council since 2002. **Dean Jantzen:** High density development is needed within established neighbourhoods (e.g. secondary suites, carriage homes) along with appropriate lot-size zoning, responsible infrastructure, parking. **Doug Kobayashi:** Wants to be part of responsible economic development. A retired engineer who has run two small businesses, he sees a need to 'cut red tape'. **Gordie Logan*:** Hopes to "realign resources". Says the Brooks private school, Trillium care facility and Pacific Centre family services building redevelopment shows "confidence" that the community is growing. Has served 19 years on council. **Scott McDonald:** Wants to preserve "the Colwood feel" while protecting the environment and getting people to live and work in this community" (focus on development and transit). **Eve Millington:** A lifelong "interest in public affairs". She has helped

out with BC Children's Hospital, BC Cancer Foundation, and Canada 150. Sees transit and economic development as important for Colwood.

Jason Nault*: Spearheaded the extensive

public input for the new Colwood OCP. Has been "always forthright" in his four terms on Council. **Misty Olsen:** A community event planner, worked in non-profit sector. Would be "respectful of your tax dollars".

Stewart Parkinson: A consulting engineer, says he is "aware of the depth and breadth of issues that come before council". "Taxes are unsustainable (up 17% last year); would be "frugal with your money". **Aaron Weisgerber:** Wants to get younger generation involved, help seniors "enjoy the community they've built". Sees transportation and sewage as key issues. Served previously on View Royal council.

Concluding each session:

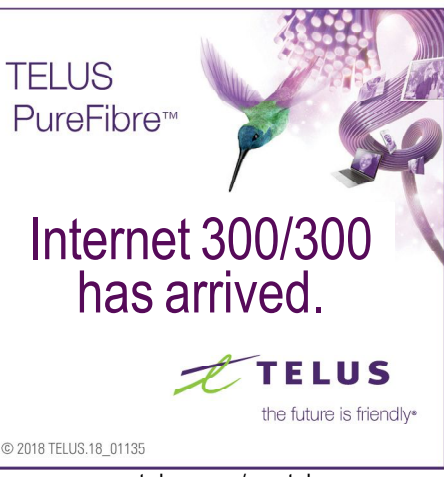
■ **Rob Martin** www.martinformayor.ca "As your mayor I will be your advocate, internally and externally."

■ **Carol Hamilton** www.carolhamilton.ca "Each of us is one vote. The mayor is only as good as the team." WSV

Pacific FC: #GotGame gear SPORT BIZ West Shore Voice News

● **The Canadian Premier League (CPL)** has signed a long-term deal with Macron, a leader in the international teamwear market. This partnership will make Macron the official league kit provider beginning with the 2019 CPL season.

The deal has the Italian-based company set to supply custom-designed playing kits and training gear for Canadian Premier League soccer clubs. The new #GotGame branded Macron apparel will be worn by all players, coaches and staff at the Canadian Premier League #GotGame Open Trials being held across Canada. That program started in Halifax September 20-21, with trials then in Montreal September 27-28, and Hamilton October 1-2. Coming up are #GotGame trials in Toronto (Oct 11-12), Winnipeg (Oct 18-19), Calgary (Oct 25-26) and then here on Vancouver Island at Westhills Stadium in Langford (Nov 5-6). @Pacificfccpl WSV



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VIRL increases 2019 levy across all their communities

● **The Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)** board has released their budget for 2019. It's a balanced budget of \$38,139,948. Municipal and rural levies will contribute \$23,140,091 which is an average increase of 4.74% (per capita increase of \$1.48) over 2018. Across all of VIRL, population increased on average by 1.82% (7,777 people), statistically bringing the per capita increase down to \$1.44.

Of every dollar spent by VIRL, 47% goes to wages and benefits, 12% into the reserve for building projects; and 9% to library materials. The rest is appropriations, branch facility costs, administration, debt servicing and computer costs.



Member municipalities and regional districts share the expenditures or levy

Graphic by VIRL

West Shore Voice News

Continued investment in digital collections and technology has driven the increase, says VIRL. The library is innovating "to meet and exceed the diverse needs of customers" as they "transition to a library of the 21st century".

There are 39 VIRL branches including in Sooke, Port Renfrew and Tofino, plus the Books by Mail service. Total branch visits in 2017 tallies to 2.6 million. WSV

VIRL 2019 budget video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=20&v=CnWdaveZ-Es



Colwood mayoral candidate Rob Martin (two-term councillor).



Colwood mayoral candidate Carol Hamilton (incumbent).

● **More photos** and first-posted version of this article at: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/strong-turn-out-for-colwood-municipal-all-candidates-october-2/>

In the audience for formal introductions were most of the Belmont Zone candidates for the SD62 school trustee election. At the beginning there were brief introductions for trustee candidates. Attending were Cendra Beaton, Russ Chipps, Wendy Hobbs*, Ravi Parmar*, Dianna Seaton*, Trudy Spiller. Not present that evening from the SD62 Belmont Zone slate: Bob Beckett, Blair Sloane. WSV

WEST SHORE VOICE

It's about muscle memory

Thurs Oct 18 at 10:18 am

West Shore Voice News

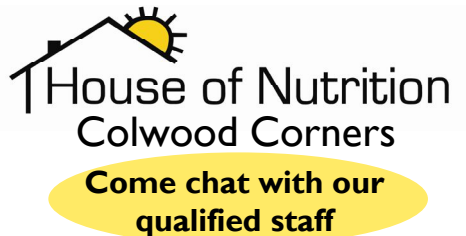


● **Muscle memory** is a term for 'motor learning', which is about establishing procedural memory in the brain. It involves consolidation of the steps of a specific physical task into memory through repetition.

That's why emergency preparedness educators hope people will practice 'Drop, Cover, and Hold On' during the annual earthquake drill in BC. Then, if the real situation ever happens, you have some experience to fall back on.

Only once a year, on ShakeOutBC day, you say (October 18 at 10:18 am this year)? But apparently the key to building good muscle memories is to focus on the quality of training. It's just as easy to ingrain poor performance as it is to do it right the first time.

The ShakeOutBC season can also be a time to remember to build and refresh the supply of food items in your emergency kits for home, car and workplace. WSV



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Election Season JdF Region & Milne's Landing (SD62)



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JdF Regional Director candidates answer questions in Otter Point

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

At the All Candidates Meeting for Juan de Fuca Regional Director on Sunday September 30, about 60 people had an opportunity to hear from three-term (10-year/2008-2018) regional director incumbent Mike Hicks and candidate Daniel Yates.

MIKE HICKS. "At age 67, I'm peaking at this job," said Hicks, referring to his efficiency at accomplishing things. Hicks said there have been "many positive changes" in the Juan de Fuca Regional District under his leadership, including purchase of the lands from Sandcut Beach to Jordan River, building the Juan de Fuca Services Building, being part of the artificial turf field installation in Sooke, being part of the golf course purchase by SEAPARC (shared Sooke and Juan de Fuca), and acquiring use of a portion of William Simmons Park in Otter Point.

Hicks was also a catalyst toward success of the Sooke library land deal between the District of Sooke and the Vancouver Island Regional Library board.

Hicks also highlighted his continued support of the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society in their pursuit of lighthouse ownership and development of the CRD-park that surrounds the property.

In typical Hicks style, he came right to the point: "Land use issues have always been at the root of our residents' discontent". He was pleased to report that JdF has an elected Land Use Committee rep from each community (Kemp Lake, Shirley, Otter Point) and that each community now has its own Official Community Plan.

Hicks was pleased to remind the politically-aware audience that the CRD Regional Growth Strategy was amended in Juan de Fuca's favour earlier this year, regarding water rights. "I have always tried to understand what my constituents want and have tried my best to build it, support it, or change the system to make it happen," Hicks claimed. He said that a good working relationship with the Premier (who is MLA for the riding) and the mayor of Sooke have facilitated Juan de Fuca's success in recent years.

DANIEL YATES. Daniel Yates grew up in the Kemp Lake area when there was no bus and few services. Now at age 35, he has a world view that watches out for 'the little guy' in communities and small business. "The free market applies to everyone except individuals," he pronounced. He said that "local government truly supports those who support the backbone of this society."

Yates said that bylaws are a general guideline and supports in principle the use of variances so that people can use their own land effectively.

"We have a community full of capable people," said Yates, adding that he would strive to find common goals. He hopes that more young voters will turn out for this election, on October 20.

The meeting was hosted by the Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River Resident and Ratepayers Association (OPSRRA), moderated by OPSRRA President Bill Dushenko. There was full audience participation for questions. The highly interactive meeting lasted over two hours (including the school trustees portion ... see next article), at the Juan de Fuca Services Building in Otter Point. **WSV**

Online: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/juan-de-fuca-all-candidates-meeting-sept-30-2018/>

Milne's Landing trustee candidates answer questions in Otter Point

School trustee candidates for Milne's Landing Zone (within SD62) addressed a fully-engaged political audience in Otter Point last weekend, including residents, at least one teacher, other trustees, and media. The candidates for the Milne's Landing Zone are elected by voters in Sooke and Juan de Fuca.

For the 2018-2022 ballot on October 20 the trustees are (*=incumbent): Bob Phillips*, Neil Poirier*, Britt Santowski, Margot Swinburnson*, and Allison Watson.

At the 2.5-hour public event Sept 30, candidates gave an opening statement to an attentive audience, answered audience questions in detail, then wrapped up.

Neil Poirier is seeking a third term; he began with parent-involvement, then PAC, was president of the Sooke Chapter for Canadian Parents for French, and was president of the BC level PAC, then ran for school board in 2011. He feels strongly about public education being adequately funded and believes schools should be safe, respectful and inclusive.

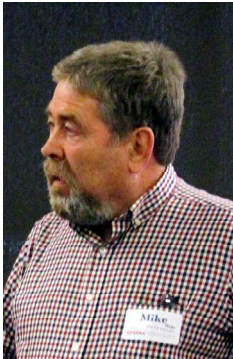
Britt Santowski said she is "very new to school politics". She said she would operate with a 'technological lens' including the impact of social media on children and things like data breaches, identity theft and reputation management. She supports the already well-established SD62 direction for indigenous education, saying "reconciliation is slowly waking up white Canada".

Margot Swinburnson has served 17 years as a trustee. Now a retired RN, at the board table she often addresses issues related to health and wellness in schools. In another term she would work on the safe routes to school initiative (including the funding aspect), and drug awareness for parents and educators. She sees a continued need for Milne's Landing Zone trustees to speak up for the Sooke/Juan de Fuca area at the larger SD62 board table (where four trustees are from the Belmont Zone that is elected from around the rest of the west shore).

Allison Watson is interested in the overall future of education in the community and as a young mom sees this as "a personal investment into the well-being of her daughters". She has worked in curriculum development and youth employment counselling. She observes that "parents, students and teachers all want to be heard and engaged in the decision-making process". She's interested in seeing that emergency preparedness is addressed better in schools, and doesn't feel that PACs should have to fund those supplies.

Bob Phillips is a keener for "responsible citizenship". He has served 19 years on the SD62 board, following a 30-year social work career in child protection, health care and addictions. In the next four years he wants to be part of seeing that the new

Election Watch 2018



Mike Hicks (incumbent)



Daniel Yates

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Five Milne's Landing Zone Trustees (running for three seats on the SD62 board) were intermingled with JdF regional director candidates, at the OPSRRA-hosted All Candidates in Otter Point, Sept 30. Trustees (in orange) from left (* = incumbent): Neil Poirier*, Britt Santowski, Margot Swinburnson*, Allison Watson, Bob Phillips*.

BC Curriculum requirements are properly funded, and that the new BC Teachers Collective Agreement "works for our students and families and provides fair compensation and 'working conditions provision' for teachers". He has served as SD62 Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and the BC Public Schools Employers Assoc.

One local teacher in the audience emphatically addressed the overall direction of education in BC. An example: in his Grade 6 class students "regularly show up" with Grade 1 and 2 reading levels. He insisted there needs to be a balance between social-emotional learning (i.e. the emphasis of the new curriculum and supported by SD62) and fundamental skills (numeracy and language literacy) that are necessary for students to perform their best in both school and the adult world. "There's no rigor," he said, saying kids can get to highschool but won't have the building blocks of speaking and writing. Addressing incumbents, he sees "a lot of disconnect between happy talk and what's actually happening at the schools" (noting an inequitable distribution of expensive technology between administration and classrooms, and not seeing enough of trustees in the schools and lengthy delays in completing some facility improvements).

Highlights and accomplishments of the SD62 board in the past four years? **Neil:** two new high schools built under the previous government, developing a strategic plan (learning, engagement, growth) and moving the plan forward. **Margot:** the board has worked as a team and SD62 has become "a district of high regard". **Bob:** the two new schools, leadership in mental health, supporting social-emotional learning, and having made 'the tough decisions' during times of financial constraint.

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Municipal Election

Sooke

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SOOKE Mayoral Candidates Forum: OCP, transportation, sustainability, leadership, town growth, protecting environment & wildlife

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

Election Watch 2018

WEB
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Online EDITION

Maja
Tait

Kevin
Pearson

Mick
Rhodes

West Shore
Voice News



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

Three contenders for
Sooke mayor addressed
the 'transition' community,
October 3, at the EMCS
Theatre.

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The audience lined up to ask questions.

On Wednesday evening October 3 in Sooke, Mayor Maja Tait (incumbent) shared the stage with Kevin Pearson (two-term Sooke councillor) and Mick Rhodes.

All three had answers prepared for a range of questions given to them ahead of time by Transition Sooke, and they adapted along the way. The audience there at the Edward Milne Community School Theatre had a few questions too.

About 80 people showed up to hear and interact with these mayoralty candidates live, with a full-event video also done for sharing later with a broader audience [see <https://youtu.be/wsaBnnthEQo>]. The audience was largely the Transition Sooke community as well as long-time residents who regularly follow municipal and community issues.

Tait claimed a lot of successes in her 4-year term (2014-2018) including development of the town core, completion of the roundabout in town centre, trails and sidewalks, and accessibility improvements. She made frequent mention of various community events and that celebrating what Sooke has to offer is something important to do often. She made specific note of Sooke's multi-year participation in Communities in Bloom, a program of community beautification recognition.

When asked about food security, Tait highlighted Sooke Fall Fair, Sunriver community and allotment gardens, and the John Muir learning garden. Tait is presently 1st Vice President of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and has represented Sooke at the CRD board table. Tait said she seeks "outcomes that represent the values of the community" and that she "loves the job, it's a way of life".

Tait said about growth and development "is not about control" but to "maintain what we have and manage the growth that we know is coming". She noted safer streets with attention to lighting, and "where we want housing located".

Pearson stood out for his practical but proactive views on generating economic growth (bringing commercial enterprise to town and creating jobs) and development (including densification within the sewer specified area) while also protecting the environment (including salmon stocks and the wildlife corridor). Having served on the CRD's Juan de Fuca Water board, he sees the regional view on water supply and said a council under his leadership would "consider food security in all our decision-making".

Pearson manages 700 staff in his current corporate job and knows how to delegate. He will retire soon to be a full-time mayor if elected. He says that many of the long-time volunteers in Sooke are now in their seventies and eighties: "They've been shaping our community for decades", said Pearson with respect and admiration. "I'm running for all of you, and our children and grandchildren. If we're careful, they'll have a quality of life that we've enjoyed."

Pearson said that social economic and environmental considerations must go hand in hand as a town grows with attention to residential, retail, commercial and business opportunities. He said that Sooke town centre might follow design standards, and that development permits could include a requirement for installation of bike racks.

Rhodes opened his remarks with a declaration that "things are moving too fast, we've got to slow it down". He wants to see a harbourfront 'central park' community area, and slower traffic on the roads. He said that council is about land use and zoning bylaws that could work to support the development of tiny homes with smaller mortgages – a rotating use of housing stock could serve different age groups. Rhodes was a journalist for 17 years and drove for Sooke Taxi; he says now he is committed to raising public issues and public awareness. He said he wants to revive All Sooke Day (which in the last decade has become merged into the Sooke Canada Day celebration). He supports more strategic placement of street lights. And as an observation: "We're all in it together. It will all depend on who you elect to council."

Questions from the audience (including from Derek Lewers, Ellen Lewers, Rosemary Jorna, Deb Johnson, Phil Rossner, Mary Coll, and Les Haddad) covered a range of topics and interests including enhancing the Sooke Country Market with a permanent space; being asked

to identify their leadership strengths for team work on Council; access to water and greenspace; better agriculture and local country market together with food security; what has motivated the candidates to run for the top job, a tough job; how the winning candidate will relate to the two who don't win after October 20; DFO restrictions on fishing; a specific local land use issue that many felt went against the OCP but got through Council anyhow; how effective or satisfactory the emergency preparedness model is at the municipal level; sticking to the OCP (even though times have changed); protecting the wildlife corridor around Sooke's built-up area; any further improvements to Highway 14; and the relationship between the municipality and the chamber of commerce.

There was relatively little mention of Highway 14 as a cantankerous issue, which may prove that BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure improvements undertaken in 2018 have improved the travelling experience on that main commuter route in and out of Sooke.

The well-organized format kept things at a good clip, with two hours and 15 minutes almost flying by in comfortable auditorium seats. Four moderators on stage were Bernie Klassen, Michael Tacon, Mark Ziegler, and Yvonne Court.

Attending in the audience were Frederique and Sinclair Philip, Jeff Bateman, Diane Bernard, and Dave Court. Juan de Fuca Regional Director Mike Hicks sat nearly front-row. Sid Jorna attended.

Next week the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a forum for all candidates (mayor and council) at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort on Thursday, evening October 11, at 7 pm. **WSV**

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Sat Oct 6
Thanksgiving Sunday
Oct 7
Thanksgiving
Monday Oct 8.

39th Annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon. Sun Oct 7. www.runvictoriamarathon.com

Thanksgiving Skate. Mon Oct 8. 1 to 2:30 pm. \$2 admission with a donation for Sooke Food Bank. Limited supply of skates. Bring your own helmet. www.seaparc.ca

CRD Regional Parks Funding Priorities Survey. Available online to Mon Oct 8. www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-parks-funding-priorities

Public hearing on Budget 2019. Tues Oct 9. 8 am to 4 pm. Songhees Wellness Centre, 1100 Admirals Rd, Esquimalt. Written input due by 5 pm on Oct 15. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/finances/budget/consultations>

Langford Municipal All Candidates Forum. Tues Oct 9. Langford Legion, 761 Station Ave. 5:45 to 8:45 pm. www.westshore.bc.ca

Town Hall Meeting on the National Housing Strategy (focus on Vancouver Island). Tues Oct 9. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Luxton Hall, 1040 Marwood Ave, Langford. Hosted by Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford). 1-866-609-9998

Westshore Chamber Business Mixer, Wed Oct 10. 5-7pm. Hosted by WorkLink, 3179 Jacklin Rd.

"Era of Megafires" film & discussion with Jens Wieting, Forest & Climate campaigner with Sierra Club of BC. Wed Oct 10. 7pm at EMCS, 6218 Sooke Rd. www.awarenessfilmmight.ca

ADVANCE VOTING: Oct 10 & Oct 17, 8 am to 8 pm
District of Metchosin (& SD62 Belmont Zone). Metchosin Municipal Hall. 4450 Happy Valley Rd. www.metchosin.ca
District of Sooke (& SD62 Milne's Landing Zone) Sooke Community Hall. www.sooke.ca
City of Colwood (& SD62 Belmont Zone). Colwood City Hall, 3300 Wishart Rd. www.colwood.ca
City of Langford (& SD62 Belmont Zone). Langford City Hall, 877 Goldstream Ave. www.langford.ca

TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE



Tues Oct 9 until Fri Nov 30. Langford Parkway adjacent City Centre Park will have travel lanes shifted to the south. Traffic will be reduced to one-lane alternating during the transition on Oct. 9. Access to Langford Lanes and City Centre Park from Langford Parkway will still be available. This temporary lane shift is needed to accommodate underground utility construction at the future signalized intersection with Leigh Road.



Ongoing to early November. Jacklin Road roadworks between Reunion Ave and Jenkins Ave. All four directions at Jacklin/Jenkins will have left-turn lanes by early November. [Photo: Jacklin Road looking toward Jenkins Ave, October 4]

For other short-term traffic advisories see:
www.langford.ca

GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon announces elite field

West Shore Voice News

● The 39th annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon will see four-time winner Daniel Kipkoech back on Sunday hoping to make it five in a row. The 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014 champion will be joined by American Mizael Carrera and Victoria's Jim Finlayson. In the women's field top seeds are Caroline Kiptoo, Lioudmila Kortchaguina, and Emily Setlack.

There will be some local battles in the half marathon with the event hosting the BC Half Marathon Championships. The BMO Vancouver Half Marathon champion, Kenyan George Towett will be facing off against the Scotiabank Calgary Half Marathon winner, Trevor Hofbauer. Towett won the Vancouver race in 1:04:03 with Hofbauer finishing in 1:08:26. But Julian Florez, who came second in Victoria last year in 1:06:00, will be a contender for the title.

The total prize purse for the High Performance Athlete Program in the Marathon and Half Marathon is \$33,500, with \$3,000 each going to the top male and female Marathoner, and a \$4,000 bonus for a new men's or women's Marathon course record. The Men's course record was set in 2013 by Lamech Mokono in 2:13:42 and the Women's by Lucy Njeri in 2011 (2:37:56). Natasha Wodak-Fraser set the women's Half Marathon record in 2012 (1:14:06). The Men's Half Marathon record is held by Jon Brown (2002 – 1:02:32). Gary Barber holds the men's 8K Road Race course record (1989 – 23:23), and Ulla Marquette holds the women's record (1991 – 26:24)

Late entries for the Marathon, Half Marathon, 8K, and the Thrifty Foods Kids Run are being accepted at the Race Expo, at the Victoria Conference Centre, on Friday, October 5, and from 9am to 6 pm on Saturday, October 6. No race-day registration. www.runvictoriamarathon.com

Full article: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/goodlife-fitness-victoria-marathon-announces-elite-field/> WSV

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10:18 am on Thurs Oct 18 **#ShakeOutBC go to www.shakeoutbc.ca/register/**

Juan de Fuca Emergency Program

Town Hall on Trans Mountain Pipeline. Wed Oct 10. Hosted by NDP MPs Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) & Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley). 6pm-8pm at Esquimalt High School Theatre, 847 Colville Rd, Esquimalt.

Sooke Municipal All Candidates Meeting. Thurs Oct 11. 7pm. Prestige Hotel. 7pm. Hosted by Sooke Region Chamber. www.sookeregionchamber.com

Composting Basics. Free workshop Sat Oct 13. Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria. 10am to 12 noon. www.compost.bc.ca

Riverside Guided Walk at Sooke Potholes. Sat Oct 13. 10am-noon. Age 18+, with CRD regional parks naturalist. Free. Pre-register by Oct 10. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Salmon Story Guided Walk Sun Oct 14. Ages 5+, 1 to 2:30 pm. With CRD Regional Parks naturalist walk along the river learning about the history and challenges of salmon. Meet at Parking Lot #2. www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events

Twoonie Tuesday. Tues Oct 16. By Sooke Harbourside Lions. Donate \$2 (or more) for Sooke Food Bank. Canvassers most of the day around Sooke town centre. www.sookefoodbank.org

Belmont Residences drives two name changes

West Shore Voice News

● **Reunion Avenue has arrived**, and the naming of Kelly Road will be extended.

As of October 1, the now popular Division Avenue through the Belmont Residences/Market development has undergone a name change. The municipal road that connects Jacklin and Jenkins through the new residential/commercial development is now called Reunion Avenue (formerly Division Avenue). The name change has a nice ring to it. It was driven by responses to Belmont Residences by potential buyers and visitors to the sales centre and acted upon as a team effort by the City of Langford, Belmont Market (Crombie REIT) and Belmont Residences developer Ledcor Properties.

"The renaming fits perfectly with this master-planned community as it relates to the overall philosophy of trail-meets-home-meets-market," says Marcela Corzo, Director of Development, Ledcor Properties.

Also based on input from Belmont Residences, the stretch of Jenkins Avenue between Veterans Memorial Parkway and Jacklin Road will soon be a name-extension of Kelly Road (seeing Kelly Rd stretch from Sooke Road to Jacklin). It will help avoid confusion for newcomers.

The Jenkins Avenue street name will remain unchanged in the residential area beyond Jacklin Road in Glen Lake/Westhills. WSV



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You're Invited!

Town Hall Meeting on the National Housing Strategy

Tuesday, October 9th // 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Luxton Hall

1040 Marwood Ave, Langford

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Alistair MacGregor

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